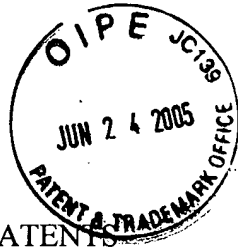


Docket No.: 250040US3



COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 10/798,425

Applicants: Hiroshi ONO, et al.

Filing Date: March 12, 2004

For: DEVICE FOR AND METHOD OF COUPLING
SHAFTS, IMAGE FORMATION APPARATUS,
PROCESS CARTRIDGE, AND BELT UNIT

Group Art Unit: 2854

Examiner: CRENSHAW, M.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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DOCKET NO.: 250040US3



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
Hiroshi ONO, et al. : EXAMINER: CRENSHAW, M.
SERIAL NO: 10/798,425 :
FILED: March 12, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2854
FOR: DEVICE FOR AND METHOD :
OF COUPLING SHAFTS,
IMAGE FORMATION
APPARATUS, PROCESS
CARTRIDGE, AND BELT UNIT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated May 31, 2005, the Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group I corresponding to Claims 1-28.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement based on MPEP § 803, which states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

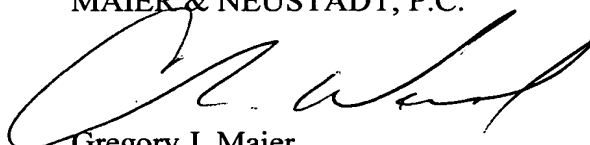
Application Serial No.: 10/798,425
Response to Restriction Requirement dated May 31, 2005

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding restriction requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-31 be conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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